

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 002662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, BTRA, UR

SUBJECT: CLOSED AREA EXCEPTION REQUESTS FOR COMMERCIAL VISITORS

REF: MOSCOW 18151

1. DEPARTMENT NOTES MFA SUBMISSION DURING DECEMBER OF LARGE NUMBER OF CLOSED AREA EXCEPTION REQUESTS FOR COMMERCIAL VISITORS. WE CONTINUE TO REGARD REQUEST REQUIREMENT AS USEFUL EXERCISE IN BRINGING TO ATTENTION OF SOVIET BUREAUCRACY DISADVANTAGES OF THE TRAVEL CONTROLS WHICH THE USSR INITIATED AND PROVIDING INCENTIVE FOR SOVIET FACILITATION OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL TRAVEL. IN DOING SO, DEPARTMENT WISHES TO AVOID IMPEDING IMPORTANT GOALS IN COMMERCIAL FIELD.

2. DEPARTMENT FOLLOWS POLICY OF WAIVING EXCEPTION REQUEST REQUIREMENT WHEN WARRANTED. MOST WAIVER REQUESTS COME TO DEPARTMENT FROM AMERICAN HOST COMPANIES WHICH ANTICIPATE A HARDSHIP ON ACCOUNT OF SOVIET UNWILLINGNESS TO SUBMIT A REQUEST. IN EVENT EMBASSY BECOMES AWARE OF SIMILAR SITUATION WARRANTING WAIVER OF EXCEPTION REQUEST REQUIREMENT, EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO GRANT WAIVER BUT SHOULD NOTIFY DEPARTMENT OF REASON. KISSINGER

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